



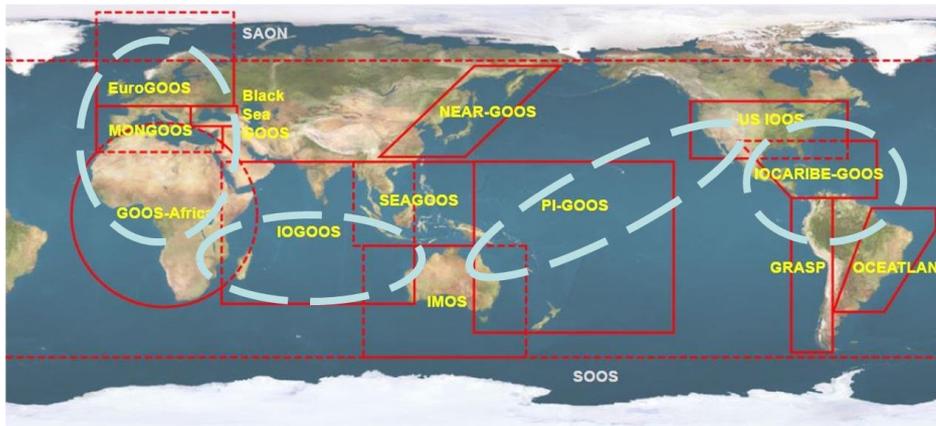
**GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) Council Update  
to the GOOS Steering Committee Meeting  
Thursday 2 June 2016, Sopot**

Following the GRA update provided to the GOOS Steering Committee Executive in New Orleans on 21 February 2016, two GRA intercessional teleconferences have been held – on 16 March and 20 May.

Focus has been on three priority projects, which are now brought forward to the GOOS SC for consideration:

**1. Mediterranean Sea-level Change And Tsunamis (MESCAT), a GRA-proposed GOOS pilot project**

- A draft proposal attached.
- Background to this proposal is that the GRAs want to play an active role in reinvigorating GOOS in response to the Framework for Ocean Observing. Developing pilot projects which can be implemented under the auspices of GOOS is one way the GRAs can contribute. Given the significant heterogeneity between GRAs (in terms of their governance and funding), we think it is more realistic to identify a series of pilots over time that involve subsets of GRAs in projects of mutual interest, to leverage existing capability, build capacity, and foster inter-regional cooperation – see schematic below:



- MESCAT is the first example, involving MONGOOS, EuroGOOS and GOOS-Africa. It has been endorsed by the GRA Council (on 20 May).
- Note that the GOOS SC had no template for pilot projects, so we have created one drawing on existing material (thanks to Zdenka Willis, US IOOS for helping with this).
- The GOOS SC is asked to consider this proposal for MESCAT to become a GOOS pilot project.

**2. HF Radar as an element of GOOS**

- A draft proposal attached.
- Background to this proposal is somewhat related to the above. As GOOS embraces more Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) across scales (including the coastal zone), it will need to embrace more observing networks to take the required measurements. GRAs already operate a

number of observing networks that have the potential to become recognised elements of GOOS. Ocean gliders are one example being considered, and High Frequency (HF) Radar is another.

- Further to discussion at GRA VII held concurrently with the 2015 GEO HF Radar meeting, Hugh Roarty and Liza Hazard (IOOS), Simone Cosoli (IMOS) and Enrique Fanjul (MONGOOS), with guidance from Zdenka Willis (US IOOS), have completed a GOOS 'Observing Element Specification' for HF Radar.
- The GOOS SC is asked to consider this proposal for HR Radar to become recognised as an observing element of GOOS.

### **3. Draft mapping of EOVs across GRAs**

- The Framework for Ocean Observing describes a 'simple system' of inputs, processes and outputs. GOOS has various structures which pre-date the Framework i.e. panels, networks, GRAs, JCOMM, and IODE. To a large extent we are still working out how these structures (and potentially new ones) need to be evolved and changed so as to make the 'simple system' a reality.
- To date most of the effort has gone into creating the three expert panels - for physics, biogeochemistry, and biology and ecosystems.
- In addition, JCOMM OCG has been considering an expanded role, and some new network communities are looking to get involved (see HF Radar above).
- Some GRAs have been thinking about how to implement the systems approach articulated in the framework, using an EOV view of requirements to prioritise investment in observing networks to deliver data and products of broad societal relevance and impact.
- The attached document compares the candidate EOVs being developed by GOOS Physics, BGC, and Biology & Ecosystems Panels with EOVs being observed by the US IOOS and IMOS GRAs, with potential to expand this comparison across other GRAs if it is thought to be useful.
- For discussion.

#### **Other issues on the GRA agenda include:**

- Capacity Building
- Benefits of open data sharing
- Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON)
- Modelling inventory
- Data portal
- GRA VIII – next forum to be held in 2017

**Prepared by: Tim Moltmann (IMOS Director)**  
**as Chair of the GRA Council, on behalf of all GRAs**  
**23 May 2016**